(d) Incentives/facilities given to soldiers posted at high altitude in Kashmir and China borders include monetary concessions like Siachen allowance, High Altitude (uncongenial climate) area allowance and non-monetary concessions such as speedy rotation of troops, special extrems cold clothing items, appropriate shelter, modern communication systems and high caloric diet.

पश्चिमी भारत में नौसैनिक अड्डा स्थापित करने हेतु प्रस्ताव

1109. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ल:** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने पश्चिमी भारत के किसी स्थान पर "सी बर्ड नौसैनिक अड्डा" स्थापित करने के किसी प्रस्ताव पर गंभीरता से विचार किया है;

(ख) क्या महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात को राज्य सरकारों द्वारा सरकार को कोई व्यापक प्रस्ताव प्रेषित किये गये हैं;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है तथा किस स्थान पर ऐसा अड्डा बनाया जायेगा; और

(घ) क्या सरकार ने पश्चिमी भारत के विशाल समुद्री तट को ध्यान में रखते हुए उक्त प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार कर लिया है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जॉर्ज फर्नान्डीज): (क) से (घ) सरकार ने भारत के पश्चिमी तट पर कर्नाटक राज्य के कारवार क्षेत्र में एक नौसैना जैसे "सी बर्ड" स्थापित करने के प्रस्ताव को अनुमोदित कर दिया है और यह स्थापित किए जाने की प्रक्रिया में है।

Allotment of arms etc. to the cadets

1110. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the criteria for the allotment of Arms, Services, Regiments and Units to the Gentleman Cadets of various Officers Training Establishments since early days of Independence (or in the British Indian Army) have been competence and merit,

(b) if so, whether there has been a devisation from this criteria effected through specific directions/instructions of Army Headquarters laying down guidelines or restrictions relating to one particular religion or a few particular communities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The criteria for the allotment of Arms/Services, Regiment/Unit to the Gentlemen Cadets has always been performance and competence. Cadets high in merit (varying from 2% to 10% of the top) have always been given their first choice.

The cadets under the present system are allocated to Arms/Services/Regiment/Battalion based on the principle of equitable distribution of calibre, age profile, qualifications and class composition. Cadets in the first 2.5% of the order of Merit get their first choice. There is no separate yardstick for allocation of Arms/Services to Cadets of any particular community/class. Due to this a cadet from a particular community/class can be commissioned to the Regiment of another community/class. An equitable distribution with an eye on "National Integration" is also kept in view. This policy strictly follows the principle of equality of opportunity to candidates of all classes.

Preference to small scale units in the CSD

1111. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort has been made to give assistance and preference to small scale units in the Canteen Stores Department (CSD);

(b) if so, what preference is shown to goods and products originating from the small scale sector;

(c) whether any financial incentives are given to goods from the small scale sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Canteen Stores Department purchases items for sale to the troops and